



# Whip Round Up

From the Office of the Assistant Democratic Leader



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## Reid for Nevada

### **Reid, Ensign Deliver \$13.5 Million for Nevada's Local Communities**

Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign will help 17 counties in Nevada receive \$13.5 million in federal funds under the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. PILT compensates counties that include significant amounts of federal land, which is exempt from property taxes. These funds are important to the budgets of local governments, which provide essential services such as law enforcement, road maintenance and search and rescue

### **\$1 Million Grant Aids UNLV Dental School**

UNLV's new School of Dental Medicine is expanding its efforts to serve Nevadans, thanks in part to a \$1 million federal grant secured by Senator Reid. The federal funding will be used to train students and provide low income and rural Nevadans with dental care.

### **Reid Works for Safe Water in Small Communities**

Nevadans in small communities would benefit from safer drinking water under Senator Harry Reid's legislation that won committee approval this week. Reid's bill would provide funding to municipalities of fewer than 15,000 people to help them comply with new and existing drinking water standards.

### **Working with Nevadans**

- Las Vegas students Ryan Altschuler, Elizabeth Ashley and Emma Gallegos met with Senator Reid while in Washington D.C. as part of the Trial by Peers program.
- Senator Reid visited with Presidential Scholars Program awardees Chase Correia of Reno and Jeremee Peters of Las Vegas while they were in D.C.
- Las Vegas Valley High School student Erik Lin-Greenberg met with Senator Reid. Erik was a recipient of the U.S. Institute of Peace award
- Senator Reid met with Rachael D'Souza (Las Vegas), Chris Estrella (Henderson), and Jessica Huang (Las Vegas), while they were in D.C. for the National Student Leadership Conference.
- Members of the American Resort Development Association met with Senator Reid while in D.C. for the group's annual Legislative Conference.



### **Reid's Words**

Nevada has long had the best military bases in the country, and now we have some of the best military research facilities as well. The Nevada projects in the new defense budget will help protect our troops and our nation, while also making our economy stronger.



**Senator Harry Reid speaks at a press conference unveiling bipartisan legislation to support the Special Olympics. He is joined by House Majority Whip Roy Blunt, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy and Special Olympics gymnast Melissa Rufino from Las Vegas.**

## Week in Review

### **Senate Approves Major Defense Measures**

- The Senate this week approved the two major bills that set policy and provide funding for the U.S. military. The Department of Defense Authorization bill, which passed on Wednesday night, included Senator Harry Reid's amendment to help disabled veterans by ending the ban on concurrent receipt of disability benefits and military retirement pay. Reid's measure will allow concurrent receipt immediately for totally disabled vets, instead of phasing it in over 10 years.

The Department of Defense 2005 Appropriations bill, which passed Thursday night, included more than \$100 million for defense projects in Nevada. These include:

- \$8 million for a Henderson-based company to mask High Density Electronics
- \$7 million for the Desert Research Institute's Computer Automated Virtual Environment facility, which is used for military training
- \$2 million for Nevada researchers who are working to improve battlefield blood transfusion technology
- \$6 million for new research initiatives at the Hawthorne Army Depot
- \$7million for the next generation of anti-terrorism communications and surveillance technology being developed in Nevada

### **Reid Carries Torch for Special Olympics-**

Senator Reid joined other Senate and House leaders in introducing legislation to support the Special Olympics. Their bipartisan bill will fund organization for next five years, providing more opportunities for children and adults with disabilities.

## **INSIDER'S CALENDAR**

- The Senate will be in recess next week. The Senate will convene Tuesday, July 6, at 9:45 a.m. to consider the nomination of Jay Holmes to be US District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. A vote on the nomination will occur at approximately 5:30 p.m.
- The Senate will recess from 12:30-2:15 p.m. on July 6 for the weekly party conferences.
- During the remainder of the week the Senate is expected to consider the Class Action Reform bill.

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